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Biden highlights accomplishments with limited resources

'We are keeping communities safe from criminals and taxpayers safe from waste and abuse'

Dover, DE – The Delaware Department of Justice is doing more to protect Delawareans and deliver value to taxpayers than ever before despite the state's challenging budget situation that has severely limited new resources, Attorney General Beau Biden told legislators Monday.

During his agency's annual appearance before the Joint Finance Committee, Biden pointed to achievements ranging from his Child Predator Task Force, which has conducted 100 investigations and educated more than 20,000 children on Internet safety, to his office's efforts to crack down on Medicaid Fraud, which have tripled the amount of taxpayer dollars recovered in the past three years.

"We are keeping communities safe from criminals and taxpayers safe from waste and abuse," Biden said. "The Delaware Department of Justice has fewer prosecutors today than when I took office three years ago, but that has not stopped us from taking more dangerous criminals off the street, targeting those wastefully spending the public's money or protecting homeowners from those seeking to prey on them during these challenging times."

In 2007, the Department recovered about \$667,000 from Medicaid fraud investigations. Last year, thanks to increased investigation and enforcement, the agency collected nearly \$1.8 million.

The national economic downturn has hit Delaware homeowners hard, and Biden has directed the Department to help Delawareans experiencing difficulty staying in their homes. The Attorney General's Mortgage Fraud Task Force, launched in 2009, has educated homeowners to avoid scams and raised the awareness of fraudulent activity within communities. The Department saw mortgage fraud reports triple after the Task Force's creation. The Task Force has helped 70 families stay in their homes, and its work led to the recent announcement of one of the largest mortgage fraud indictments in Delaware history and action against one of the nation's largest homebuilders.

"We wake up every day focused on protecting Delawareans and ensuring the laws are enforced," Biden said. "These tough economic times are making our jobs harder, but we are rising to the challenge."

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